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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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BOGOTA FOR LEGATT
E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CARR, GY (PEOPLE'S TEMPLE), (BEIKMAN, CHARLES E.)
SUBJECT: BEIKMAN'S SENTENCE REDUCED
REF: GEORGETOWN 1567
1. THE CONSUL HAS JUST LEARNED THAT, IN A QUIET LEGAL MOVE THAT HAS NOT AS YET RECEIVED ANY ATTENTION IN THE PRESS, HIGH COURT JUSTICE KENNARD HAS EFFECTIVELY REDUCED THE SENTENCE HE HAD HIMSELF IMPOSED ON CHARLES BEIKMAN.
2. AT THE TIME OF SENTENCING THE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS HAD MOVED (UNSUCCESSFULLY) THAT WHATEVER SENTENCE MIGHT BE DECIDED UPON SHOULD BE MADE EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 1979. THE ARGUMENT FOR THIS MOTION WAS BASED UPON THE CONTENTION THAT BEIKMAN'S TRIAL WOULD HAVE GONE TO JUDGMENT DURING THE APRIL 1979 SESSION HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND BEIKMAN'S CONTROL (STEVE JONES' SPURIOUS CONFESSION IN DECEMBER 1978)-SEE 78 GEORGETOWN 4349).
3. BEIKMAN'S ATTORNEYS HAD THIRTY DAYS FROM SENTENCING TO APPEAL SENTENCE DIRECTLY TO JUSTICE KENNARD. THEY THEN COULD HAVE GONE TO THE COURT
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OF APPEALS. ACCORDING TO DEFENSE ATTORNEY REX MCKAY, JUSTICE KENNARD AGREED TO PERMIT SENTENCE TO RUN FROM APRIL 1, 1979 VICE 1980, EFFECTIVELY REDUCING BEIKMAN'S SENTENCE 12 MONTHS. WITH TIME OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR BEIKMAN CAN EXPECT TO BE RELEASED IN THE SPRING OF 1982.
ROBERTS
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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